

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

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OBSERVATIONS BY THE KICKER.

More About "Desirable Immigrants."—Unrest General. Russian Methods being Inaugurated in the South.

Last week the Kicker told you about the exodus of United States farmers into Canada and the activity of the landlords and their government in establishing immigration bureaus to bring "desirable foreigners" to compete with the farmers yet remaining for the use of the land. The system requires that there should be more farmers than farms—more workers than work.

Yes, our capitalist masters want only "desirable immigrants"—servile, ignorant work mules. They and their retainers shout about "our country" and "our flag" and tell the workers that the tariff is for the protection of American laborers. They tell you that they don't want the laborers of this land of the brave and the free to have to compete with the "pauper labor" of Europe and Asia.

Carnegie is one of these great patriots who wants American labor protected. And when his wage-slaves ask for living wages they get bullets instead. A strike in which ten thousand men are involved is now on at the Carnegie mills in Pittsburgh. In the Pittsburgh papers the following advertisement appears:

"Men Wanted—Tinner, Catchers and Helpers to work in OPEN SHOPS. SYRIANS, POLES and ROMANIANS PREFERRED. Steady employment and good wages to men willing to work. Fare paid and no fees charged."

There you are. "Syrians, Poles and Rumanians preferred." Even the Italians are working up to a point where they cease to be "desirable," and the English, Irish or Germans are out of the question altogether, as are also the Americans.

Yes, my dearly beloved sons of toil, your immigration commissioner has arranged to bring in some "desirable immigrants" to compete with you for the jobs and the privilege of cultivating the soil. That is where you come in under our glorious system of "protection to American industry." And this is what you march and shout and vote for.

Never, within my recollection, was there such universal unrest among the masses of all countries. The Turkish government was overthrown and a constitutional government established; in Persia the revolutionists were successful; Russia is a seething mass of discontent, as is also Mexico. Only last week the city of San Carlos, in Mexico, revolted because of extortionate taxation, but the cunning and treacherous tyrant, Diaz, promised "reform" and secured an agreement without bloodshed. But my prediction is that instead of getting "reforms" the brave men who revolted will be sentenced to death.

Spain is a seething mass of revolution and armed hostilities have already set in. A like condition exists in Sweden. All these countries are the backward nations where the masses are the most ignorant and superstitious. The masses do not know that it is the system under which they live that is the cause of their wretchedness, hence they strike at the visible representative of the system—the government. And all they get in return for their suffering is a change of tyrants. They put out one ruler and install another, just as the employees of a mill or factory may complain and cause the discharge of one boss to accept another. The change may satisfy a personal grievance, but has nothing to do with the filling of their dinner pails.

It is a blind revolt these unfortunate work people of the old world are leading, very similar in kind as all the revolts described since the beginning of history. They realize that something is wrong, but they are kept in such ignorance by their religious and other teachers that the real cause of their misery—capitalism—never enters their minds. Of Spain the Poplar Bluff Citizen-Democrat says:

"The boy king of Spain is passing through an ordeal that will reveal to the world the stuff of which he is made. His own subjects are in revolt against him, his army is being defeated by strife in Morocco, his throne is beginning to totter. Spain is issuing from a cloud of ignorance in the darkness of which it has struggled for centuries. And when it comes forth,

shining in the light of education and progress, it may be that its people will obtain freedom from monarchial government and be blessed with one like that of the nation which gave them a good spanking some time ago."

There you are—a dose of the same poison that is fed to the masses of the countries of the old world by their moulders of public opinion. The country that gave Spain a "good spanking" was the United States, and if there is any country where the working class is being driven to the wall faster than in this country, I do not know of it.

All over the north, east and west the workers are striking for living wages. They get bullets instead. In the south a poor man out of work is arrested and forced to work in the cotton fields under conditions more cruel than was ever dreamed of under black slavery. Yet it may be that the people of Spain "will obtain freedom from monarchial government and be BLESSED with one like that of the nation which gave them a good spanking."

Some time ago I rode down on the Frisco train and some men were discussing the conditions of the south, where the unemployed are arrested on charges of vagrancy and made to work under unbearable conditions. Cashier Norman, of the Illinois bank, overheard the conversation and put in: "Don't you believe anything like that." I am going to reproduce a story as related by Collier's Weekly. It is not a Socialist, but a capitalist publication.

Joseph Callis, a Russian, came here to escape the tyranny of the Czar and enjoy our "blessings." He left New York and had tramped and beat his way on trains in search of work until he reached Little Rock, Ark., the capital of that great Democratic state. He had only ten cents and was arrested and taken to a slave pen. He was intelligent, however, and managed to get a letter by the guards that reached the outside world and Washington. After personally investigating the matter Collier's Weekly has this to say:

"Labor camps for criminals, convicts or city prisoners, used sometimes to employ torture, murder and overwork, in a way that did not serve the interests of justice. The case of Callis is recent. The crime for which Callis was handed over to the overseer with his rifle and his whips was unemployment. Joseph Callis, a Russian Jew, is personally known to this paper. From his own lips we give the story of his wanderings and sufferings and White House rescue which freed him from bondage in February 1909.

He was beating his way across country from New York to Colorado in the year of unemployment, November, 1908.

At Little Rock, Ark., Callis was standing at the railroad station a man approached and put a revolver to his forehead.

"Who are you and where are you going?"

"I am looking for work," Callis answered.

"Have you any money?"

"Ten cents."

"You're arrested."

He was locked up in a barn and the next day fined \$10 and all expenses.

Others of the unemployed had been gathered in. After the trial the men were chained, lead to the railroad station and shipped to a small town in Southeastern Arkansas. What the men ate while traveling, and the provisions of the detectives guarding them were charged to the prisoners. When the party reached the town the debt of each prisoner was \$90, although the railroad fare is \$8.40.

"We came to the small railroad station. As soon as we left the train we were surrounded by six negroes armed with rifles. We were seated in a wagon and went slowly through a forest. In front of the wagon rode a negro, on both sides were negroes, and behind us rode Mr. Simpson, the whipping boss, and Mr. Gentry, the superintendent. They were all armed.

"On arrival at the labor camp they asked the men already there about the place.

"You'll see it for yourself tomorrow," said one of them. "It is worse to live here than in hell. Men are flogged and shot down."

The next morning we formed in two lines in the yard. The boss came out of the house and counted us. There were eighty-five men, white and black. The white go to work separately from the black, though they often work together. We walk in line. In front of us are two negroes well armed with rifles; behind us the same, and on one side rides the overseer. To his

saddle is attached a large whip with a heavy wooden handle, and a strap three feet long, three inches wide and one-quarter inch thick. The rear of this procession is brought up by a negro leading a pack of bloodhounds, designated to hunt for the runaways.

"We did not have to walk far and soon stopped before a field sown with cotton. Bags were tied to our backs and we were told to gather the cotton. We, the Northerners, were not accustomed to this work and did it very slowly, while the negroes skillfully and quickly gathered the cotton and went on. Behind us was the overseer, scolding and cursing us. He was particularly angry with one of the comrades, Schmidt. Calling him, he said: 'Are you going to gather cotton or not?'

"I work for the first time," answered Schmidt, 'as soon as I become used to it I will work faster, but I can't do it now.'

"You can't? I'll teach you," he dismounted and took his whip. The overseer called two negroes. 'Lie down,' he shouted to Schmidt.

"The latter did not know what to do. At a distance stood the sentinels with rifles and watched the proceedings. Consequently we could not help our comrade.

"The negroes threw Schmidt on the ground. One of them held his head and the other his feet. The overseer took his whip in both hands, shook it in the air, looked around, and then struck Schmidt on his naked back. A blue mark revealed the place where the strap came in contact with the skin. Schmidt cried out with an inhuman voice. The overseer became still more enraged and struck him the second time, third, seven times.

"Schmidt rose to his feet with great difficulty and staggered to his place of work.

"Simpson, the overseer was not however, content with Schmidt's sufferings. He called out two more men and gave them five blows each. After that all worked faster lest they should incur the wrath of Simpson.

"Before my arrival to the penance, during this work, one of the white men tried to escape; but before he had covered twenty paces he was shot down by a negro sentinel. During that time was also shot a negro, and he was given twenty-five blows of the whip, after which he died. 'We were put to different work. We gathered cotton, we felled trees, cleared the fields, dug ditches, tilled the ground, built fences around the fields, etc. There was not one day in which somebody would not be flogged. Two or three were flogged every day, and sometimes this number rose to ten. Very often Mr. Gentry would become intoxicated. Then he would punish the sluggish and he flogged them with all his strength, with rage, on the back, on the head, on any place where his lash could reach. In such case we had to work like automatons, unceasingly, and Gentry would sit somewhere and watch us.

"For the first two months of my life in the penance, the number of whites was increased to 45 and of negroes to 100. Our life was very hard. We were not allowed to smoke. Our food on week days was bad, but on Sundays it was still worse—only two meals a day, a breakfast at nine and a dinner at three. We were always hungry. Exhausted, half dead, we could find no rest even at night. Work, lash and hunger, our life, and this miserable existence was undermining our health. Only the fresh air gave us some strength. We 45 men were lodged in one small room with four tiny windows. Along the wall stood benches for sleep, two stories high, and between them was an aisle about a yard wide. On Sunday we staid in bed all day, under dirty, full-of-vermin blankets. Many of us became sick of overwork, lack of sleep and proper nourishment. The doctors visited the place very rarely. No matter what was the disease of a man, whether it was a tooth-ache, a fever or a sprain, the doctor would give the same kind of pills.

"From the first of January of this year the overseer was discharged for his excessive cruelty, and drinking, but chiefly for cheating. His place was taken by Mr. Nikol, an older man than Simpson. He disliked the negroes so much that it gave him real pleasure to flog them. If a negro would say a word to him, he'd beat him on the head with the handle of his whip. He treated the whites less severely. He treated me somewhat better than the rest, as he had found out that I had sent letters somewhere. This circumstance disturbed him a little."

Callis had written letters that were forwarded to the state department at Washington, and an official came for him.

"From the place of my sufferings I was being taken to the White House to be put under the protection of American law. My attirement was of a singular

style. My clothes were torn and shabby—a dirty red shirt, a red handkerchief, large California boots on my feet and straw farmer hat on my head. I sat on velvet cushions and smoked the best Cuban cigars. The Americans regarded me with visible curiosity and perplexedness. I resembled, as one of the passengers said, a California robber. My boots were so torn that they revealed my bare toes.

Mr. Elder, a government attorney, two congressmen, and a senator, heard Callis tell his story. They gave him ten dollars and a ticket to New York.

And these are the blessings that the Poplar Bluff paper would have the Spaniards accept! The authorities at Washington gave Callis \$10 to get rid of him—and he is back in New York—still out of work. What is he to do? When Taft was asked the question during the campaign "What is a working man to do who wants to work, his family starving and he can get no work?" his answer was, "God knows, he has my sympathy."

There are millions of men and women in the United States in the same boat with Joseph Callis. The Kicker will gladly give space to any capitalist who will answer the question that the president could not answer.

A GANG ROUNDED UP.

For some time the people of Kelo township have been annoyed by petty thieving and burglaries, and last Friday night Joe Dumey and Henry Homan were caught in Baudendistel's store, arrested and brought here and turned over to the sheriff by constable Randolph.

Homan is a young unmarried man who has been in trouble before and was released from parole last April. He is better known as Henry Fornes—his stepfather's name being Fornes. Joe Dumey is of a good family and has many relatives in the north end of the county. He is a brother-in-law to Matt Thomas, county judge from the north end. He is a young widower with two children. His widowed mother lives at Kelo.

Sheriff Guber secured confessions from Dumey and Homan implicating others in the depredations that have been committed—such as stealing from freight cars and so on—and the next day Charles Logel, Wm. Krueger, Gilbert Miller, Arthur Menz and Henry Mirgaux were rounded up and brought in by Officer Hallick Wilson. Of these Logel, Mirgaux and Menz are married. Logel is a son of Mrs. Louisa Logel, postmistress at Kelo and a son-in-law of Judge Thomas. They are charged with burglary and grand larceny.

Monday Gilbert Miller and Willie Krueger were released on bond. Willie is the son of August Krueger, a good farmer near Edna, and claims to have took no part in the stealing. He says he ate some of the bananas, but did not know that they had been stolen from the cars.

Gilbert Miller is the son of the late Henry Miller and a step son of Ernest Brunkhorst, a good farmer of the north end. Henry Mirgaux is a son of the late Frank Mirgaux and a son-in-law of George Buhs, a clerk in Baudendistel's store at Edna. Arthur Menz is the son of Sam Menz, a farmer near Kelo.

A Kicker reporter called on the boys at the jail Monday and they seemed to be somewhat indifferent as to their fate.

ROAD ENGINEER RESIGNS.

In Butler county the Highway Engineer has decided to locate in Montana and resigned. The Poplar Bluff Citizen says:

"He has held the office something more than a year. He received a salary of \$1200 a year. Mr. Nickey, who has been county surveyor for several years and was re-elected recently, will receive \$900 a year. He is amply qualified to prosecute the duties of highway engineer."

According to the official manual of 1908 the vote of Butler county in 1906 (the latest given) was 3880—indicating a population of 19,400. The same authority gives the vote of Scott county in 1906 at 3103, indicating a population of 15,525.

Anyone at all familiar with Butler county knows that it is both hilly and swampy—conditions not desirable for road building. Yet the county court of that county paid to a man who could devote his whole time to the work \$1,200 as highway engineer, and when it was handed over to the surveyor to look after, this amount was cut to \$600—or \$700 less than the surveyor of Scott county receives for similar service.

But, perhaps, our taxpayers are better able to afford it.

Patronize the People's Paper.

RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

Well, sir; it is getting much easier to edit a newspaper than it used to be. A few years ago it was necessary to look to Russia or Mexico for inhumanity and indescribable cruelty, but local conditions are furnishing plenty of "news" at home.

A few months ago the Kicker told you about an unfortunate, penniless mother being chased out of Arkansas to Caruthersville, from there to Cape Girardeau, and from the Cape to St. Louis by the authorities in the hope of getting rid of her. But nowhere was she wanted. Now comes a similar story of Mrs. C. M. Hanks, whose husband had been cruelly murdered at Emmett's mill, near Dexter. The Campbell Citizen says:

"Chas. M. Hanks, a small weakly man, was knocked down and kicked to death by one Henry Woodruff, a large, double-fisted, big-footed bully, Sunday a week ago, at Emmett's mill, ten miles south of Dexter. Just over the New Madrid county line. Hank's wife and two little children, penniless and in bad health, were sent to the Stoddard county poor farm, but that institution or somebody sent the woman and children to this place, paying her way she says, to get rid of her. If the Stoddard county court, or the poor farm authorities, or the Bloomfield citizens sent her to Campbell, simply to get rid of her, it shows devilish little humanity and much less sense of right, justice and honor to force her on a neighbor town and county that had nothing whatever to do in bringing about her condition. Whoever was guilty of sending the poor, half-crazed, bereaved woman and innocent little children scurrying over the country, without money or food or even the assurance of what would become of them, are almost as mean as the low-fung scoundrel who murdered her husband. The citizens of Campbell chipped in some \$25.00, gave it to her and Constable Darr Fought carried her to the county farm where she was given a home."

Mother and babies on the poor farm! That is the best society has to offer the unfortunate family. And what remedy have the defenders of the present system to offer? None. The prisons are full and the poor houses and charitable institutions are crowded. It would surprise you to see the allowances made by every term of court to care for our own paupers. And the number of our people in the insane asylums and reformatories grows rapidly. All this must be paid by YOU. And, by your votes, you approve.

In our jail are a dozen or more persons. All these must be fed and clothed at your expense—some of them probably for years. With the exception of one, I believe, all are charged with crimes against property. And right here let me point to the county court allowances published elsewhere, where you may find more evidence of plunder during one week than the total amount of all the value of the depredations charged against the men in jail.

Property—the desire to possess it—is responsible for ninety per cent of the crimes committed today. I know that it is customary to charge nearly all crime up to liquor, but that is only partially true. Hunger and want produces more crime than all else. If you don't give people a chance to earn a living they will get it some other way.

Give the people a chance and they will not be so bad. Very few steal just to be stealing. The men in jail are nearly all stout young men. As I crossed the street with the sheriff, coming from the jail, he remarked, 'I'd like to have that crowd to make a crop with.' Suppose he had that crowd to crop with, how much better off would the crowd be after the crop was made than now!

So long as a wage-slave has a job he gets just enough wages to keep him in condition to work. When his job ceases his income ceases, and unless he can find another master he is up against a proposition that often forces him to steal or starve. Let the worker own his job so that he will not be dependent on another for a chance to earn a living. Then crime will cease.

But there is one thing the Kicker has reason to be proud of. None of the men in jail are subscribers to it. They get their "morality" from the capitalist sources. So far as I know there has not been a Socialist in jail here since the first Socialist local was organized in the county nearly two years ago. In fact, I can not recall that one was even arrested. And yet we are told that the Socialists are a lawless, immoral, irreligious set!

HOW EASY YOU ARE.

I think it will be conceded by all fair men that both the Republican and Democratic leaders use money in bribing votes in the cities. The man who would claim ignorance of this would be considered very ignorant, for there is not a city of any size in the nation where men have not been convicted of this crime. The wholesale bribery of voters in St. Louis and Kansas City is notorious—and in this the Democrats were most conspicuous because they were in control. Where the Republicans are in power, there the bribe money is furnished to them.

This bribe-money is furnished by the interests that profit from special laws. Our system of justice always stops short before reaching the men higher up—the criminals who are the chief beneficiary of this wholesale bribery. It is only the unfortunate, ignorant tools who, for a few dollars, vote the ticket that the rich want them to.

But how about you? You do for nothing what these poor devils get paid for. You vote the same tickets that they do and get nothing but the hot air of the politicians and newspaper organs and, perhaps, a swig of cheap booze or a bad cigar.

You are so easy.

THE FIGHT ON BOOZE.

An election has been ordered so that the people may vote on whether or not liquor shall be sold within the county. Four years ago this question was submitted and defeated. It is well known that the Kicker opposed the traffic then—and the Kicker opposes it yet.

But this does not signify that the Kicker has learned nothing during the four years past. It has learned that the liquor traffic is only one of many evils produced by capitalism, and that this, with the other evils, will exist so long as capitalism exists. So long as there is profit in the sale of liquor it will be sold—law or no law.

The liquor traffic—whether voted in or out—is a most prolific source of revenue for lawyers and officials. It causes men to make brutes of themselves, creates trouble—and this is what permits the lawyers and officials to feed and dress well. Without strife and contention their incomes would diminish, and that is another very important reason why no law can bring about the result desired by those who honestly believe in the abolition of the liquor traffic.

OFFICIALS DOING DUTY.

Chicago, Aug. 10.—Three Socialist street meetings were broken up by the police last Saturday night. All of the raids were characterized by the brutal, uncalculated clubbing of those in the audience who happened to be nearest the attacking "coppers."

Five Socialists were arrested at the meeting held by the Lithuanians at Thirty-third and Morgan streets. The crowd that was listening to the speakers here were unusually large. The police suddenly appeared after the meeting had continued peacefully for some time and began using their clubs in a vicious manner.

MORE "CIVILIZATION."

Sparta, Wis., Aug. 7.—Details of cruelty to an old man suspected as a thief were brought out in a trial here. Accused of robbing Andrew Johnson, a farmer, of his purse containing \$73, Frank Allen was tortured almost to death at Catawack, Wis., on July 1. He was hanged to the rafters of a barn by a crowd of Johnson's friends.

Eight men were arrested and seven are now being tried for the crime. They are Andrew Johnson, Edward Mayfield, Frank Young, Dr. Hedron, Andrew Baume, Ernest Mengel and Frank Masterson.

Dr. Wilbur Davis was discharged and went on the stand for the state. He told a sensational story of the torture. According to him, the men caught Allen near Mayfield's barn, and after beating him until his face was unrecognizable took him into the barn and hanged him by the neck to one of the rafters.

Dr. Hedron held his pulse and when his physical condition required, ordered that he be let down for a brief rest. He was hanged in this manner three times, the last time being taken down unconscious.

After being, with difficulty, brought back to life, he was taken to the river to be ducked. NEAR THE RIVER THE MISSING POCKETBOOK WAS FOUND. The mob then turned Allen over to a justice of the peace, who ordered him out of town.

Beware of Concoits. However exalted our position, we should not despise the powers of the humble.—Phaedrus.

EDITOR IN JAIL.

Lead, S. D. Aug. 9.—Freeman Knowles, editor of The Lantern, the Socialist weekly paper published at Deadwood, was taken to the Pennington county jail yesterday until a \$500 fine imposed for an alleged misuse of the mail is paid.

"I will die in jail before paying the fine," says Knowles. "It is a charge founded on no basis whatsoever. It is merely one of the results of the persecution of the Socialist press by the Federal authorities. I will not admit that I have done wrong by the payment of a fine."

Knowles, who is 63 years old, fought in the civil war and has since taken a keen interest in politics.

THE SOUTHEAST.

Neighborhood troubles caused Wm. Williford to kill Mr. Chmel and Frank Henry killed Williford's father near New Madrid. Our Christian(?) civilization is so productive of "good will toward men". Here is another indication of the beauties of our competitive system taken from the Caruthersville Democrat: "In a difficulty at Cottonwood Point Wednesday afternoon, M. B. Holt was fearfully cut by Jude Finley, Holt's son-in-law. The men have both been engaged in the ferry business at the point, and through competition have so reduced the price of ferrage that the business was a losing venture, and this caused the trouble. Both men are well and favorably known in the Cottonwood Point neighborhood."

Two men robbed a wild turkey's nest in Stone county of ten eggs. They were arrested by a game warden, and upon trial were each fined \$25 and \$50 for each egg taken, making a total of \$550.

Congressman Crow has been assured by government authorities that a levee below Commerce and along Prices Landing and into Mississippi county will be built to protect the land from overflow.

While working at the Cape cement plant David Jones, an iron worker, was killed. A heavy trunk fell on him from a scaffold. He was from St. Louis, where the body was sent.

London Register: The Appeal to Reason man was convicted, so was Senator Barton, and so, again, was the Man of Galilee.

R. C. Dantforth, an old resident of Charleston, died last week.

PUBLIC SALE.

Tuesday, August 17, 1909. At my Farm 1 1/4 miles south of Chaffee, on Dutchtown road, I will sell at auction, four good work-mules, three good brood-mares (two having good milk cows), a two-year-old filly, a one-year-old horse colt sired by Egyptian Boy, a 7-year-old and a 3-year-old horse, 20 head of cattle, 3 good milk cows and calves, two young cows heavy with calves, 13 yearlings (one Jersey bull ready for service), a 4-year-old red Durham bull, 20 head of hogs, 13 shoats, 6 brood sows (some with pigs), a Poland-China and a Mager Boar a lot of timothy and clover hay about 35 acres of growing corn, plows, harrows, corn-planters, new McCormick binder, Champion binder, 2 cultivators, hay-rake mower, disc plow, 3 farm wagons, a buggy, surrey, and many other articles.

Terms: \$5.00 and under, cash; over \$5.00 a credit of 6 months will be given, purchaser giving 7% note with approved security. If promptly paid at maturity no interest will be charged. For cash on sums over \$5 a discount of 2% will be given. No property to be removed until conditions of sale have been complied with.

Joe A. Legrand.

DON'T CREATE DISCONTENT.

The boss in the brickyard tells one of the men to hurry. A bystander asks the boss why he tells the men to hurry.

"Why, I pay him to hurry."

"How much do you pay him?"

"Two dollars a day."

"Where do you get the money to pay him?"

"I sell bricks and get it."

"How many bricks does this man make in a day?"

"On an average, a thousand."

"How much a thousand do you get for the bricks?"

"Ten dollars."

"So, instead of you paying him, he pays you eight dollars a day to stand around and tell him to hurry?"

"Well, I furnish the machinery to make the bricks."

"Where did you get the money to buy the machinery?"

"I sold bricks and got it. Now don't ask any more damphool questions, for the men might hear you and go to making bricks for themselves."

Farm for sale:—360 acres—240 acres in cultivation. As good land as can be found in Scott county. The part in cultivation never overflows. Will sell all or in such parts as suit the buyer. Price \$35 and \$40 per acre, if taken now. Terms reasonable. J. H. Branham, Vandeventer